

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 13-665V

Filed: March 11, 2015

UNPUBLISHED

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LISA VERNON,

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Petitioner,

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Stipulation; Attorneys' Fees and Costs

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

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Respondent.

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Jeffrey Pop, Jeffrey S. Pop, Attorney at Law, Beverly Hills, CA, for petitioner.

Justine Walters, U.S. Dep't. of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION ON ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS¹

Gowen, Special Master:

In this case under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program,² I issued a decision adopting the parties' stipulation on February 4, 2015. On March 11, 2015, the parties filed a Stipulation of Fact concerning attorneys' fees and costs. Additionally, pursuant to General Order #9, petitioner's counsel asserted that petitioner incurred \$1099.79 in litigation costs in this matter. *Id.* at para. 3.

The parties' stipulation indicates that respondent does not object to the amended amount of \$11,289.21 in attorneys' fees and costs and petitioner's costs of \$1099.79 that petitioner is requesting for attorneys' fees and costs.

I find that this petition was brought in good faith and that there existed a reasonable basis for the claim. Therefore, an award for fees and costs is appropriate, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-15(b) and (e)(1). Further, the proposed amount seems reasonable and

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I intend to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, § 205, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2006)). In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to delete medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will delete such material from public access.

² The applicable statutory provisions defining the program are found at 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 *et seq.* (2006).

appropriate. Accordingly, I hereby award the total \$12,389.00³ as follows:

- A lump sum of \$11,289.21 in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and petitioner's counsel of record, Jeffrey S. Pop, for petitioner's attorneys' fees and costs; and
- A lump sum of \$1099.79 in the form of a check jointly payable to petitioner, Lisa Vernon, for personal litigation costs.

The clerk of the court shall enter judgment in accordance herewith.⁴

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/ Thomas L. Gowen

Thomas L. Gowen
Special Master

³ This amount is intended to cover all legal expenses incurred in this matter. This award encompasses all charges by the attorney against a client, "advanced costs" as well as fees for legal services rendered. Furthermore, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e)(3) prevents an attorney from charging or collecting fees (including costs) that would be in addition to the amount awarded herein. See generally *Beck v. Sec'y, HHS*, 924 F.2d 1029 (Fed. Cir.1991).

⁴ Entry of judgment can be expedited by each party's filing of a notice renouncing the right to seek review. See Vaccine Rule 11(a).